Voting in 2020 U.S. Elections

Celebrate democracy by taking the necessary steps to vote in the 2020 U.S. elections!

In order to vote in the November 2020 elections, all overseas U.S. citizens need to have completed a [Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)](#) in 2020. Whether you are a first-time voter or have already received ballots and voted absentee in past elections, you **must** complete an FPCA **each year** to participate in elections as an overseas absentee voter.

You may drop off your completed Federal Post Card Application at the Embassy to be shipped via diplomatic pouch free of charge. We accept voting materials at the Embassy's consular entrance on Monday to Thursday from 7:30am to 4:00pm, and on Friday from 7:30am to 12:00pm. Please verify the address of your local election office by reviewing the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) [website](#).

Please note that all visitors to the Embassy are subject to security screening.

Mail sent by diplomatic pouch may take up to four weeks for mail to reach its destination and may encounter unexpected delays due to COVID-19 related disruptions. All overseas U.S. citizens are advised to submit their forms and ballots accordingly. Ballots will be received and forwarded whenever submitted but voters may want to consider using a courier service if submitting a ballot close to a submission deadline.

Registering to Vote and submitting a ballot is fast, easy, and can be done from anywhere in the world. Follow a few simple steps to vote in the 2020 U.S. elections:

1. **Register to vote:** Start by confirming your voter registration with your state. Some states require absentee voters to register annually, so you may need to re-register. Go to [FVAP.gov](#) to connect to your state's voter portal to register to vote, request a ballot, and more.

2. **Request Your Ballot:** Most states provide the option to request ballots through their state election portals, which you can easily access via FVAP.gov. You can also choose to complete a [Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)](#). The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all **elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives),** including primaries and special elections, during the calendar year in which it is submitted. [FPCA](#) forms that are correctly filled out and **include a signature and date** are accepted by all local election officials in

every U.S. state and territory. FVAP's easy [online assistant](#) can assist you with completing the FPCA.

Whether you request your ballot through your state's portal or the FPCA, we encourage you to select the option to receive your ballot electronically (by email, internet download, or fax) when available. This is the fastest way to get your ballot and ensures you have it in time to return a completed form before your state's deadline.

3. **Receive and Complete Your Ballot:** States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office, and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. Most states allow you to confirm your [ballot delivery online](#).

4. **Return Your Completed, Signed Ballot:** Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials by mail, you can do so through international mail, professional courier service or through U.S. Embassy Nairobi's diplomatic pouch. The diplomatic pouch provides free mail service from embassies and consulates to a U.S. sorting facility. You will need to place your ballots in postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient U.S. postage, in order for them to be delivered to the proper local election authorities once received by the U.S. sorting facility. Note that that postage-paid indicia can be downloaded on the FVAP website [here](#).

If you plan to use the diplomatic pouch, drop off your ballots at the end of the Consular entrance during the times listed above. Please note that all visitors to the Embassy are subject to security screening.

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Go to the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources to aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain online. You can also read national and hometown newspapers online or search the internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via [Facebook](#) (@DODFVAP), [Twitter](#) (@FVAP), and [Instagram](#) (@fvapgov).

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, [FVAP.gov](#). If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact U.S. Embassy Nairobi's Voting Officer at VoteNairobi@state.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!